

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2592

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

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USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 3215

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, GR

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH TURKISH AMBASSADOR

1. I HAD A 90-MINUTE TOUR D'HORIZON WITH TURKISH AMBASSADOR INHAN NOVEMBER 7. HIS MAIN THEME WAS THAT UNGA DELIBERATIONS AND CYPRUS INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, IF THEY ARE THEREAFTER RESUMED, CAN HAVE NO USEFUL RESULT UNTIL (A) MAKARIOS GOES AND (B) GREEK CYPRIOTS APPRECIATE THE NEW REALITIES ON ISLAND, I.E. THAT CYPRUS CAN NEVER AGAIN BE A GREEK ISLAND.
2. DEPLORING ASSASSINATION OF TURKISH AMBASSADORS, HE BLAMED GREEK CYPRIOTS, SAID OMINOUSLY THAT IT IS TURKISH NATIONAL CHARACTER TO "ASSESS PATIENTLY AND THEN EXPLODE".
3. INHAN SEEMED CLOSELY INFORMED ON RECENT US EXCHANGES WITH TURKEY ALTHOUGH WE KEPT FOR THE MOST PART TO GENERALITIES. HE HAD ONE INTERESTING COMMENT. TURKISH POSITION ON PARTICIPATION IN A FUTURE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT "ON AN EQUAL BASIS" OR ON "BASIS OF EQUAL RIGHTS" (HE SAID EITHER TERM ACCEPTABLE) WAS NEGOTIABLE.

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GOT INTERESTED IN THE QUALITY AND SPIRIT OF THIS

PARTICIPATION, NOT ITS QUANTITATIVE ASPECT. FOR
EXAMPLE, HE WAS THE LOGIC OF A FUTURE CIVIL SERVICE WHOSE COMPOSITION
WOULD BE CLOSER TO 80-20 POPULATION RATION THAN TO 50-50.

4. CONCLUDING THE GENERAL PORTION OF OUR CONVERSATION,
INHAN AGREED THAT US-TURKISH RELATIONS WERE AT A
CRITICAL JUNCTURE AND GOING DOWNHILL. HE CITED DIFFER-
ENCES IN RESPECTIVE ATTITUDES TOWARDS FUTURE BILATERAL
DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP, CYPRUS, TURKISH
INTERNAL POLITICA (WEAKNESS OF DEMIREL GOVERNMENT), AND US
DOMESTIC POLITICS (PROSPECTS OF A NEW ARMS EMBARGO).
WE AGREED STRENUOUS EFFORTS BY THOSE OF GOOD WILL ON
BOTH SIDES WOULD BE NEEDED IF THE DOWNSLIDE WERE TO BE
REVERSED. I REMINDED HIM THAT THE CORE PROBLEM WAS
CYPRUS AND WITHIN THAT PROBLEM THE GOT'S FAILURE TO
IMPLEMENT PROMISES REGARDING PROPOSALS FOR TERRITORIAL
READJUSTMENT THAT WOULD MATCH EXISTING GREEK COMPROMISES
ON BIZONALITY AND A WEAK CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. IN
APPARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, INHAN SHRUGGED DISPIRTEDLY
HAVING IN MIND, IT SEEMED, THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL
PROBLEMS CONFRONTING DEMIREL. HE SAID THAT REALISITCALLY
ONE COULD NOT EXPECT MOVEMENT UNTIL THERE WERE AN RPP-UP
COALITION OR NEW ELECTIONS. HE FELT THE FORMER WAS
MOST UNLIKELY AND TE LATTER MANY MONTHS AWAY.

5. ON SPECIFICS, INHAN SAID "THOSE WHO DECIDE THESE
THINGS" (THE MAINLAND MILITARY) HAVE AGREED TO COOPERATE
IN EMBASSY ACCESS TO CLOSED COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES FOR
PURPOSES OF INSPECTION, MAINTENANCE AND , ON A CASE BY CASE
BASIS, REMOVAL OF HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS. INHAN SUGGESTED WE
BE IN TOUCH WITH ("ACTING TFSC PRESIDENT" MINISTER OF
DEFENSE) OREK NEXT WEEK TO FLESH THIS OUT. KI WILL SEEK
APPOINTMENT WITH OREK FOR MID-WEEK).

6. I COMMENTED TO INHAN ON THE ADVERSE PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPACT
OF CLOSURE OF TFSC BORDER IN NICOSIA TO ALL BUT FOREIGN DIPLOMATS
AND UN PERSONNEL. I NOTED THAT IMPRESSION CREATED AMONG
FOREIGN RESIDENTS OF NORTHERN ZONE, THE BRITISH BEING
LARGEST NUMBER, WAS THAT RUEKISH AUTHORITIES WANTED TO
DRIVE THEM OUT BY DENYING ACCESS TO NORMAL RETAIL FACILITIES
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AND MEDICAL CARE IN GREEK NICOSIA, AND IN SOME CASES
ACTUALLY PREVENTING THEM FROM PRUSUING THEIR LIVELIHOODS.
INHAN REPLIED THAT CLOSURE OF THE BORDER HAD BEEN A
MILITARY DECISION PROMPTED BY ASSASSINATION OF AMBASSADORS.
HOWEVER, HE SEEMED TO TAKE SERIOUSLY THE PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECT
AND PRESSED FOR DETAILS OF HARDSHIP CASES AS IF HE
INTENDED TO USE THESE IN THE PROPER QUARTERS TO PRESS FOR
SOME PARTIAL EASING OF PRESENT RESTRICTIONS.

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